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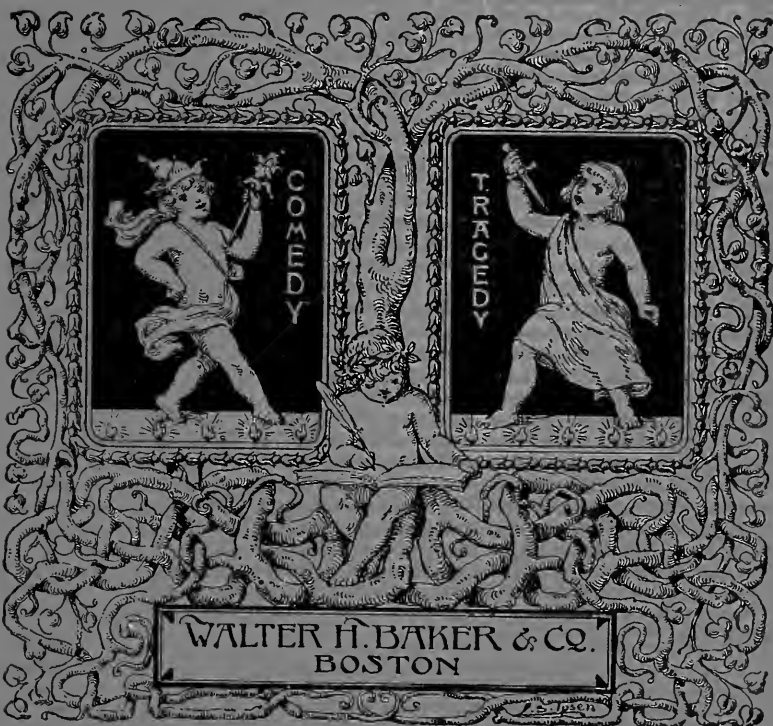
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BAKER'S EDITION OF PLAYS

A BORROWED UMBRELLA



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Something New, Funny and Refined.

PROF. BAXTER'S GREAT INVENTION,

— OR —

OLD MAIDS MADE NEW.

A COMEDY-FARCE IN ONE ACT.

By MARY B. HORNE,

Author of "THE PEAK SISTERS," "THE CARNIVAL OF DAYS," "THE BOOK
OF DRILLS, Parts I and II," ETC.

For three male and three female characters. Modern every-day costumes. Scenery of the very simplest character. Plays about an hour, or longer, according to specialties, songs, etc., introduced. This entertainment is a decided novelty and is excruciatingly funny. First-rate Irish soubrette part, and capital comic old man. Prof. Baxter's patent process for making old people young again suits everybody, both on the stage and off.

Price, - - - - 15 cents.

SYNOPSIS.

SCENE.— Dr. Baxter's Office. Mary Ann and the Professor. A scientific breakfast. Patients. A sweet young thing of fifty. Mary Ann romances. The old dude. More patients. A back number. Getting ready for the operation. Roxanna and the Doctor. Greek meets Greek. Electro-motive force *vs.* a female tongue. The "gossimere." The current begins to work. Woolley has a very strange feeling. Charged with electricity. "I never charge, but take cash down." Filling the cabinets. A little backward in coming forward. Dorothy's shyness. "What, get in there with two men!" Mary Ann sacrificed to propriety. Roxanna and the Doctor again. Getting the mitten. "You press the button, and I'll do the rest." The current full on. Groans of the wounded. After the battle. Old maids and old dudes made new. Roxanna's work undone. "It's a deep laid plot!" Celebrating the event. "The dude who couldn't dance." Mary Ann and "The Irish Jubilee." It is in the air and Roxanna catches it. A terrible catastrophe. The deaf old gentlemen gets overdone. The Professor adopts the old infant. Marrying and giving in marriage. The "invention" pronounced a grand success.

Walter H. Baker & Co., 23 Winter St., Boston.

A

BORROWED UMBRELLA

A Comedietta in One Act

BY

ESTHER B. TIFFANY

AUTHOR OF "A MODEL LOVER," "A RICE PUDDING," "THE WAY TO HIS
POCKET," "ANITA'S TRIAL," "AN AUTOGRAPH LETTER,"
"THAT PATRICK," "YOUNG MR.
PRITCHARD," ETC.



24.6694'

BOSTON

Walter H. Baker & Co.

1893

CHARACTERS.

MR. WILSON, *married.*

MR. GRAHAM, *bachelor.*

MRS. WILSON, *married.*

MISS EVELYN WAITES, *spinster.*

THE UMBRELLA, *divorced.*

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SCENE. — *A room in Wilson's country house.*

COSTUMES. — *Modern.*



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A BORROWED UMBRELLA.

SCENE. — *The drawing-room of Mr. WILSON'S country house.*
WILSON, GRAHAM, and MRS. WILSON *discovered.*

WILSON. What a deluge! If only you had sent us word, Graham! The idea of you, with your cough, walking up from the station!

GRAHAM. I have no cough.

WIL. And by what chance did you provide yourself with an umbrella?

GRA. I didn't provide myself with an umbrella.

WIL. Who did then?

GRA. The queerest piece of luck! Why, a friend of yours came up to me at the station, and asked if I wouldn't do her the kindness — she had evidently heard me ask the ticket agent where your house was — of carrying back a borrowed umbrella.

MRS. W. A borrowed umbrella? I don't recall any one borrowing an umbrella lately.

GRA. A wretched little, flimsy, woman's affair! But it saved my hat.

MRS. W. Now, who could it have been? How was she dressed?

WIL. To ask Graham how a woman was dressed!

GRA. Oh, like anybody.

MRS. W. What kind of a hat?

GRA. Not so queer as they usually make them. Something fluffy round the brim. I recall —

MRS. W. Feathers?

GRA. Perhaps. No — not feathers — no, it was a curly sort of mat of hair, and it danced about in the wind.

WIL. Curls in a rain-storm! That ought to help you, Katy.

MRS. W. It does. It's Eve, of course. I knew it from the start.

WIL. If ever you find a girl revelling in a rain-storm, Graham, you may know her hair curls by nature. But when did Eve borrow an umbrella? It hasn't rained for a month.

MRS. W. O Ned! Don't you see?

WIL. See? What?

GRA. What is it we are to see?

MRS. W. And to think that you both are considered really unusually clever men!

WIL. Don't smirk, Graham! That's not a compliment. But let's take a look at the umbrella in question. Here it stands, dripping and mysterious. Why, that's not your umbrella, Katy!

MRS. W. Indeed? (*To GRAHAM.*) How did you leave your sister?

WIL. "E. M. W." in a monogram on the handle. "E. M. W"? Why, Evelyn Monk Waites! How came Eve to send you her own umbrella, Katy?

MRS. W. (*aside*). Hush, Ned!

WIL. (*going to door*). Ah, here's Nellie with a note. (*Reading note.*) "Please send my umbrella by Nellie, and don't for worlds ever let Mr. Graham know" — Ah, what's this?

MRS. W. Give me the note, Ned — it's for me.

WIL. (*laughing*). No! that's too good! Here, Nellie, take Miss Evelyn's umbrella.

GRA. Ever let Mr. Graham know what?

MRS. W. Oh, never mind! And you think of trying Asheville, Mr. Graham? (*To WILSON.*) Do be still.

WIL. No; but you must hear — listen.

MRS. W. Ned, I insist!

GRA. And I insist too.

WIL. (*reading*). "Ever let Mr. Graham know my little trick."

GRA. "Trick!"

WIL. (*reading*). "I knew when I heard him asking for your place who he must be, and there wasn't a sign of old Saunder's hack, and he was coughing so, and looking so wretched" —

MRS. W. (*aside*). Ned!

WIL. "So—so—ahem — that I had not the heart to let him go off in the rain, so laid my little trap, into which he walked as neatly as you please."

GRA. "Her little trap!"

WIL. (*reading*). "I had on my ulster and cap, and got home as dry as one of Ned's jokes." Take care, Miss Eve!

GRA. Outrageous!

WIL. You don't seem to see the joke!

GRA. Joke? It's an insult a — Where does she live? She must apologize — she shall apologize, if she is a woman!

MRS. W. And these are all the thanks poor Eve gets!

GRA. (*in great excitement*). But to walk up to a defenceless stranger and deliberately to lie to him! Make him fancy he is doing her a favor, when all the while —

MRS. W. Deliberately lie? I don't believe Eve told the ghost of a fib.

WIL. No, not the ghost. You are not married, Graham. You do not understand these feminine subtleties.

MRS. W. I don't believe, even, that she called it a borrowed umbrella. I am sure she only said that, as you were going to her

friends, the Wilsons', would you be so kind as to take this umbrella.

GRA. (*reluctantly*). It was something to that effect.

MRS. W. There, I told you so!

GRA. You don't seem to see that that makes it all the worse. And she was such a particularly innocent-looking girl!

WIL. That was what the serpent thought.

GRA. Such especially candid, frank, large, gray eyes.

WIL. Ah, we were not quite so blind after all!

GRA. With black lashes.

WIL. (*aside*). Better and better.

GRA. And a few freckles on the bridge of her nose.

WIL. (*aside*). Oh, you will do very well.

GRA. (*meditatively*). I don't know why a scattering of freckles on the bridge of a nose should give such an artless and innocent air!

WIL. Yes, freckles, in the inverse ratio to their size and number, are dangerous.

GRA. And to think of my saying, "Oh, no trouble at all," and grinning like an ass.

WIL. Yes, whichever way you look at it, it's delightful.

GRA. What do you suppose she thought of me?

WIL. I can tell you exactly. It's all in the postscript.

MRS. W. Now, Ned!

WIL. The gist of a woman's letter you know. (*Reads.*) "P. S.—I am glad I am going off, for I could see by the way Mr. Graham looked that he quite disapproved of me."

GRA. Going off!

WIL. Which translated into plain English means, "I am quite too awfully sorry that I shall miss Mr. Graham's visit, as I saw plainly enough he took a violent fancy to me." Eh, Katy?

MRS. W. You are too bad!

GRA. What is she going away for now? I thought this was just the height of the season at Reedbrook. She ought to be told how outrageous her conduct was.

WIL. I'll tell her, with your compliments.

GRA. No; but I meant propose—

WIL. Not this time, Graham. You'll have to wait. But I approve of your choice. Eve is a nice girl. By all means ask Eve.

EVE (*appearing at door*). By all means ask Eve.

WIL. Why, Eve!

MRS. W. Dear me, Eve!

EVE. What is it that Eve is to be asked?

MRS. W. (*hastily*). Eve, let me present Ned's college friend, Mr. Graham. Mr. Graham, Miss Waites.

WIL. By the way, Graham, from your description it just occurs to me that this may be the very young lady for whom you kindly brought back Katy's umbrella.

GRA. Yes — I — I —

WIL. You need not have been in such a hurry, Eve; I have two umbrellas, and I don't in the least mind lending Katy my old one.

MRS. W. (*hastily*). All packed, dear?

EVE. No, indeed. I just ran up to —

WIL. See that Katy got her umbrella safely. Yes, she did. It is a valuable one. The monogram alone is worth —

EVE (*aside*). O Katy, you didn't —

WIL. But I don't approve, myself, of trusting unknown parties with valuable property. As Graham and I were just saying, appearances are deceptive.

EVE. Come, Ned, I haven't a moment to spare. Father sent me up for the Tyler title-deeds, and then I must run home and pack.

WIL. Tyler title-deeds? Let's see, Katy, where are my keys?

MRS. W. Helpless creature! (*Exeunt WILSON and MRS. WILSON.*)

EVE. You are to make quite a visit here, are you not?

GRA. (*visibly embarrassed*). I hardly know — I — are you to be long away?

EVE. Six months.

GRA. Six months!

EVE. Yes; in Montreal. I leave to-morrow on the nine o'clock express.

GRA. (*with sudden inspiration*). Montreal? I have a cousin in Montreal.

EVE. Have you?

GRA. Yes. I haven't seen him for years. We were boys together.

EVE. How hard these separations are!

GRA. (*warming to the subject*). There wasn't a scrape in the whole district but we were in it together. Chums in college, too. Why, yes, it's full ten years since I've seen old Tom.

EVE. Is he a good correspondent?

GRA. Well — not very.

(*Enter WILSON and MRS. WILSON.*)

WIL. Here, Eve.

EVE. Thanks. Now I must run. Good-by, Mr. Graham; good-by, Katy dear. Oh, what was it, though, that I was to have been asked?

WIL. I was merely suggesting —

MRS. W. Ned was only proposing —

GRA. That as I am going to Montreal on the nine o'clock to-morrow, I might be permitted to escort you.

WIL. Why — (*Checks himself.*)

MRS. W. You don't —

EVE. Oh, you are going to see your cousin?

WIL. What cousin have you in Montreal, Graham?

GRA. (*hesitating*). Tom Cutler.

WIL (*amazed*). Tom Cutler!

GRA. (*severely*). Yes ; Tom Cutler.

WIL. Oh, ah, yes, to be sure, Tom Cutler. (*Aside.*) As I remarked before, you'll do very well.

EVE. Mr. Graham has not seen his cousin for ten years.

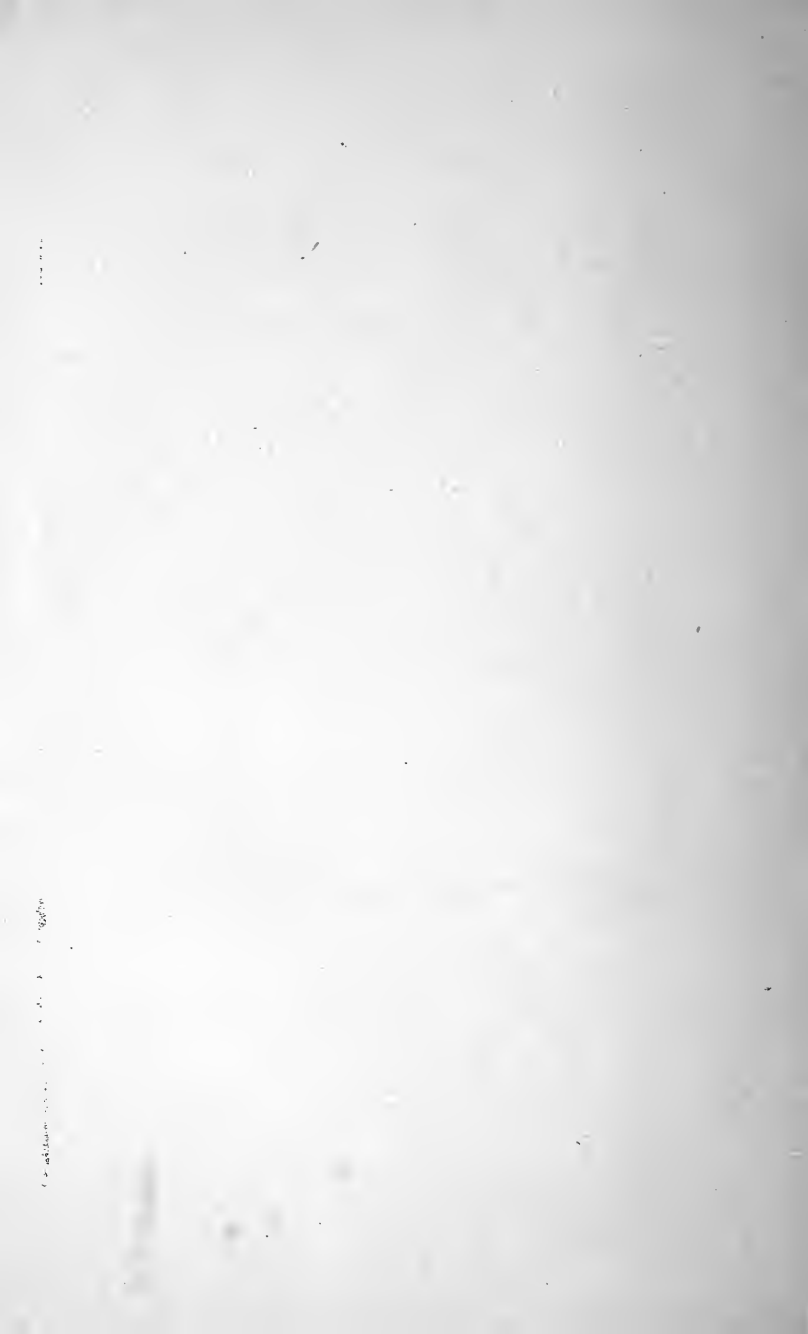
WIL. No ; I doubt if many of Tom's friends have seen him very lately. (*Aside to MRS. W.*) Forged, you know.

GRA. (*to EVE*). You have not said —

EVE. Why, with pleasure, Mr. Graham.

WIL. Well, all I can say is, Graham, that if you are going to Montreal to-morrow to see Tom Cutler, I wish you joy!

CURTAIN.



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For thirteen male characters and supers. Scenery unimportant, the stage representing the interior of a lodge-room. Costumes, burlesque regalia. Plays forty-five minutes. This is an uproarously funny travesty of the forms of initiation, and is just the thing for a lodge-room entertainment. Any number of men can assist as members, etc.

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Price, 15 Cents.

SYNOPSIS:

SCENE. — Uncle Nathan's barn. Bobby and Scipio. In black and white. A few conundrums. "Silence am gold." Gathering of the neighbors. Music and fun. Thomas Jefferson is heard from. "Von leedle song," by Solomon Levi. Betsy and Josiah. A leap-year courtship. Algernon Fitznoodle and Little Lord Fauntleroy. The dude and the darling. Fitznoodle takes a tumble. Patrick and Ah Sin. Race prejudices. Harmony out of discord. Music. Betsy and the swing. A little mistake. Betsy recites. THE HUMANIPHONE. Pat and Kitty. The red ear. "Hurrah for supper!"

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